



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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September 30, 2005

**AUSTIN MAN SENTENCED FOR INCOME TAX EVASION**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in Austin, Texas, Steven Dale Shanklin was sentenced to five years in federal prison for not paying over \$425,000 in taxes.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Sam Sparks ordered that Shanklin be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

By pleading guilty on May 20, 2005, Shanklin admitted that as an employee of Cisco Systems Sales and Services, Inc., during 1999, he earned W-2 wages of approximately \$770,504.23, but intentionally refused to pay income tax on those earnings. To keep Cisco Systems from withholding portions of his salary, Shanklin created a false and fraudulent W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, which he signed and submitted to his employer claiming he was exempt from withholding. Shanklin failed to pay an estimated \$239,221 in taxes to the Internal Revenue Service for 1999.

By filing a false tax return for 1998 and failure to file tax returns for years 1999-2003, Shanklin owes the government more than \$425,565 in back taxes, exclusive of interest and penalties. Pursuant to the terms of the plea agreement, Steven Dale Shanklin agreed to the imposition by the Internal Revenue Service of a fraud penalty for the calendar years 1998-2003 and the Internal Revenue Service retains the right to collect civilly taxes, penalties, and interest due from the Defendant.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations Division and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sharon S. Pierce.

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